

## THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER, Pt. 2

### 1 John 5.14-15

Last week, the sermon made two very important points:

Point 1: We **m**\_\_\_\_\_ pray because the will of God is not released for action until we do.

Matt. 16:19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

2 Chron. 7.14 If my people...pray...then...I will heal their land.

Point 2: We must pray according to God's **w**\_\_\_\_\_ and not our own.

Matt. 6:9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

How do we pray God's will?

Rom. 8:26 ...the Spirit helps us in our weakness...we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Prayer is the **e**\_\_\_\_\_ of our understanding and belief that we have nothing to contribute to the plan of God other than our complete surrender to His will.

And the lack of prayer is evidence of our **u**\_\_\_\_\_.

Heb. 11:6 ...without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Matt. 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

*C.S. Lewis, "A Problem without an Answer"*

- Pattern A: Prayer according to the **w**\_\_\_\_\_ of God

We may make any request which our heart desires, but with the awareness that God, according to the plans of His design, may see best not to grant our request.

Matt. 6:9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Luke 22:42 Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.

- Pattern B: Prayer according to our **b**\_\_\_\_\_.

The condition of prayer is "unwavering, unhesitating" prayer. If we have any hope of receiving those things we prayed for, we must have faith that God is going to answer by granting our petition, as James said, without doubting, without wavering.

Matt. 21:22 ...whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

Mark 11:24 I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The Apostle John addressed both of these patterns in a single reference in his first letter.

1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

The word "confidence" means to speak freely and with fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, and assurance.

We can be certain beyond any doubt that when we pray God's will, that God's will is going to be done.

1 John 5:15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

The point is that prayer is an expression of **t**\_\_\_\_\_ that God does love us and that He does care enough to provide everything we need for life and for ministry.

The practice of prayer means that we

1. Must pray to **r**\_\_\_\_\_ God's will
2. Must pray **a**\_\_\_\_\_ to God's will
3. Must pray **b**\_\_\_\_\_ God will answer